

(c) On receipt of proposal from the State of Andhra Pradesh, a sum of Rs. 15.36 lakh has been released as per their requirement to implement the Saving-cum-Relief component of the National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen in 2006-07.

(d) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Contract farming

416. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the experience of contract farming in Andhra Pradesh which shows that growing incidents of pre-determined prices being reduced on the pretext of inferior quality of crops and delayed payments have led to farmers resenting a system that has put them under the total control of corporations; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to set up strong systems to monitor contracts to ensure that growers, the more vulnerable partners, are not exploited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) In order to equitably protect the interests of both the parties under contract farming, a Model Act which, *inter-alia*, provides for an institutional arrangement for registration of sponsoring companies, recording of Contract Farming Agreement, indemnity to farmers' land and lays down a time bound dispute resolution mechanism was circulated to State Governments for their guidance. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported that based on the said Model Act, the relevant existing State law has been suitably amended and notified. As per the notified provisions, any person desiring to enter into Contract Farming Agreements with farmers/producers can do so by entering into a Contract Farming Agreement and these agreements have to be registered with the Market Committees concerned. The State Government has, however, reported that no Contract Farming cases have been registered with the Agricultural Market Committees in the State of Andhra Pradesh so far.